Bordering the forest is a sugar cane field in which the Vervet Monkeys spend considerable time, breaking canes which they carry off to the trees at the edge of the forest to eat. On most occasions the Crested Guineafowl accompany the monkeys to the forest edge and then wander along in the cleared fire-break which separates the forest from the sugar cane, where they dig up grubs and bulbs for food. They seldom stray far from where the monkeys are.

When they are beneath the monkeys, the Crested Guineafowl seem to be less afraid of those things that would normally disturb them. While sitting on the ground watching the Vervet Monkeys, I have had Crested Guineafowl come within a metre or so of me, and on occasion they have approached my dog closely. Even when I move, the guineafowl do not appear to be unduly disturbed.

It is not only the guineafowl who derive advantages from associating with the Vervet Monkeys: there is also a reciprocal advantage, since the monkeys react to the alarm calls of the guineafowl. When a flock of Crested Guineafowl are disturbed by my walking through the forest, they give a rapid "clicking" call and, often, within a few seconds, the Vervet Monkeys bark from some distance away. After 20 to 40 seconds, depending on how far away they are, the monkeys appear as if to investigate what had disturbed the guineafowl.

When I take a companion into the forest with me, the Vervet Monkeys begin to bark as soon as they see him and normally the Crested Guineafowl "click" excitedly and move away from the area as if they recognize that the monkeys are barking at something which is a potential danger. But, on other occasions, their curiosity appears to overcome them and they venture closer to inspect the intruder. This foraging and warning relationship between the Crested Guineafowl and the Vervet Monkeys appears to be unreported in the literature.

I am obliged to Mr. R. K. Brooke for criticizing a draft of this communication.

A new subspecies of *Accipiter tachiro*

by M. Desfayes

Received 23rd November, 1973

In April and May 1971, the author made a collection of birds in the province of Kaffa in southwestern Ethiopia. The region extending from western Kaffa to Goré in the Illubabor province is covered with very dense unbroken humid forest which appears to be the largest expanse of rain-forest east of the Congo from which it is isolated by over 1000 km of dry savanna. As should be expected, a certain number of species collected are darker than those from the rest of Ethiopia, which is generally drier.

Of the better differentiated birds are two specimens, a male and a female, of *Accipiter tachiro*. Both are notably darker below than any other specimens of the species. The barring of the female is definitely brown, not rufous. The flanks and thighs are also darker in the same proportion. The male is rufous below but also darker. Both sexes are separable at a glance from specimens of *unduliventer* (type locality Simien) from Ankobar, Shoa, Ali-Beret, Arussi and Manaco (between Anadi and Alelu, southern Ethiopia), and differ even more from *unduliventer* than do many specimens of *sparsimfasciatus* (type locality Zanzibar). The former is described as "darker, with heavier barring below

more washed with chestnut" (Brown & Amadon 1968); this character may show in a fair series but is not evident in a small collection and individuals are not always separable, as also noted by White (1965). The two Kaffa specimens are similar in size to *unduliventer* for which Brown & Amadon give: wing ♂ 184, ♀ 216 mm, and thus smaller than *sparsimfasciatus*. Weight appears to be a usually good indicative of size variations although this character is little used in subspecific taxonomy, in part because of the paucity of data, although see Amadon (1943). The weights of two females, 408 and 509 g, given by Brown & Amadon (1968) are a good measure of the size of *sparsimfasciatus* although they seem to be among the heaviest. These figures must have been derived from Moreau (1944). Verheyen (1953) gives ♂ 230 g for *sparsimfasciatus* from southern Zaire and Britton (1970) an identical figure from Tanzania, also in the distribution range of *sparsimfasciatus*. These weights as well as those from Kaffa specimens given below show the remarkable size dimorphism in this species. For the dark population of southeastern Ethiopia, I propose the name:

Accipiter tachiro croizati, subsp. nov.

in honour of Dr. Leon Croizat (botanist, biogeographer and scholar, Member of the Academy of Sciences of Caracas, Corresponding Member of the American Museum of Natural History) who has devoted to ornithology a sizeable portion of his important work.

Type: Adult male with testes enlarged. Locality: Afallo, altitude *ca.* 2050 m, Ghera region, 36°20′ E, 7°45′ N, Kaffa province, 1 May 1971. U.S. Nat. Mus. No. 522426.

Paratype: Adult female with ovary developing. Locality: Challa, altitude *ca.* 2100 m, about 20 km north of Afallo, 8 May. US. Nat. Mus. No. 522427.

Diagnosis: Differs from *unduliventer* and from all other subspecies of *Accipiter tachiro* in being darker both above and below ("Verona brown" *vs.* "pecan brown" of Ridgway's Color Chart, 1912). Size smaller than *sparsimfasciatus*, equal to *unduliventer*. Tail spots large and distinct. Under tail-coverts barred with grey in ♂, partly and very lightly so in ♀.

Colours of bare parts: Male: Iris orange-yellow; orbital skin same but paler. Bill: upper mandible blackish, lower dark brown at tip, bluish at base; cere and commissures lemon-yellow. Legs and feet yellow; soles paler and brighter yellow; claws dark brown. *Female:* Iris and orbital skin yellow. Bill: upper mandible blackish-slate, bluish at base of sides; cere and commissures greenish yellow; lower mandible blackish-slate, bluish in the middle, pale yellow at base. Legs, feet, soles and claws as in male.

Measurements: Wing ♂ 172, ♀ 217; tail ♂ 150, ♀ 190; bill from skull ♂ 22, ♀ 25; tarsus ♂ 54, ♀ 60 mm. Weight ♂ 145, ♀ 260 g.

Material examined: Specimens of *unduliventer*, *sparsimfasciatus* and nominate *tachiro* in the U.S. National Museum and the American Museum of Natural History.

Distribution: The rain-forest of southwestern Ethiopia.

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The eggs of the Golden Conure *Aratinga guarouba*

by Michael P. Walters

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There appear to be no references to the eggs of the Golden Conure in literature beyond the statement by Snethlage (1935) that an egg removed from the oviduct of a specimen collected on the Tocantins river on 13th October 1912, was "almost round". This has been quoted in Meise (1963–4) and by Forshaw (1973), without further comment. The collection of the British Museum (Natural History) contains seven eggs of this species, a c/6 laid in August 1938 (reg. no. 1938.8.1.1–6) from the collection of the Marquis of Tavistock, and a single egg recently acquired from the collection of the late Col. F. E. W. Venning (reg. no. 1970.6.520). The Tavistock eggs are roundish ovals, two of them being narrowly pointed at the small end. They are smooth, but not glossy, and measure 35·4 × 25·7; 34·3 × 25·1; 32·9 × 26·5; 35·1 × 25·8; 32·2 × 25·2; and 32·7 × 26·5 mm. The Venning egg is slightly smaller, 30·2 × 25·2 mm, and is almost round.

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Reduced natal down in some emberizine species

by C. J. O. Harrison

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In describing the natal pterylosis of the Swallow-tanager *Tersina viridis*, Collins (1973) has compared the extremely scanty down of this species with the more plentiful down of other Thraupinae species and suggested that the reduction of neossoptiles in that species and in the Violet Euphonia *Tanagra violacea* is correlated with a nest in a cavity or closed site as opposed to the more typical cup nest in an open site. He comments that further information is needed on this feature of tanagers and allied species.

Recently observations were made on the captive breeding of Saffron Finches *Sicalis flaveola* (Harrison 1973). This species normally nests in a cavity or in the closed nest of a larger bird, and within the site builds a cup-type nest. The site used by the captive birds was a small hollow log, and it was only possible to examine one nestling at about six days old. This was almost naked, but close examination showed a few tiny, sparse down tufts on the middle of the dorsal tract, a few more on the upper wings, and one or two over each eye.